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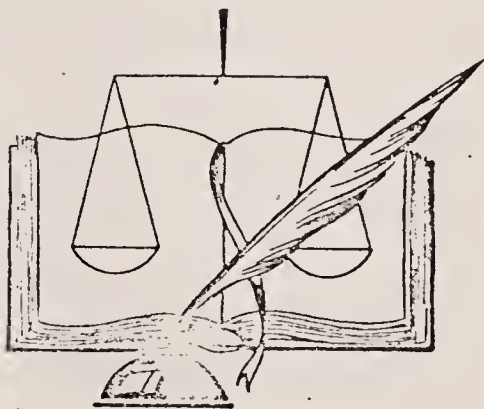
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Ault, Helene E.
The Hon. John Read,
gentleman, 1679-1749

✓



The Hon. JOHN READ *Gentleman*

1679



1749

PRESENTED BY HELENE B. AULT

BEFORE THE REDDING HISTORY CLUB

- 1942 -

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FOREWORD

Mrs. Helene B. Ault presented before the Redding History Club this paper on "The Hon. John Read, Gentleman", first settler of Redding, Connecticut and an eminent lawyer in Massachusetts Province where he died in 1749.

Correspondence with the Custodian of Harvard College archives, Mr. Clifford K. Shipton, brought a gracious response with some new data from Massachusetts; also helpful and quoted freely here, was an earlier address delivered in 1886 by Mr. Isaac Beers, who in that year lived adjacent to the land where John Read was born in 1679, son of William Read and Deborah Baldwin.

* * *

The snow does not last long in Fairfield. It is probable that the day of John Read's birth in January, 1679, was mild and beautiful, with those misty shades which dimly reveal Long Island across the smooth expanse of water south of the salt meadows.

Since the Pequots had been decisively defeated in 1675, Fairfield had settled down into the tranquil village which it has been to this day. Founded in 1639 by men from Hartford and New Haven Colonies, the Town had been laid out in orderly blocks, with wide avenues cut through the primeval forest trees. In the very heart of the settlement was the old Westcott home where John's mother, Deborah Baldwin, had been born in 1652; but John's place of birth was probably at "CALVES' PASTURE", a 3-acre farm which his father, William Read, had bought in 1673 from Cornelius Hull -- part of an original grant given by the Town to Hull in 1653. (See Vol. A, pages 35 and 214.)

Later on, in 1786, William Read did acquire the former place, belonging to his wife's kin, and John grew up in that more pretentious old home, and inherited both places. The Baldwin home had been built very early by Richard Westcott, an original settler, whose widow, Joanna, had brought this home to her second husband, Nathaniel Baldwin, (before 1650), and then to her third husband, Thomas Skidmore. By subsequent transfers, it came to William Read -- but not until John was seven years old.

This later home was better placed, being on the main Highway (now the Old Post Road), opposite the (present) old Academy, and near the Town Church and the residence of the minister, The Rev. Samuel Wakeman, a Harvard man, who was also probably the best qualified, if not the only tutor at that time.

In Book A of the Town Records was entered the simple statement: "John Read, the son of William Read, was born the 29th day of January, 1679". Reversing the large volume, we come upon a deed of gift, whereby the father, William Read, although he did not die for four years later on, did in 1693 seek to secure to his only son, John Read, all his estate. (A-188) Sept. 2, 1693.

Although John was only fourteen then, and about to go far off to school, William Read drew up the desired division of his lands, certain meadows for Sara and Abigail, his daughters, and the record states: "All other lands, meadows, house, barn, orchards and fences are to go to my loving son, John Read".

Raised in an environment reflecting the simple existence of his time -- (that of Charles II; Edmond Andros was then in New York Colony; William Penn was just founding Pennsylvania), John Read had a background both tender and substantial. He lost his young mother, Deborah Read, when he was but a child; but she had not only a brother, Samuel Baldwin, and a sister, Sara (wife of Joseph Barlow), but her father and mother had each had four

children by previous marriages, and no doubt all cared for the three children of Deborah Read until the father remarried. The Baldwin family had come from Buckinghamshire to early Milford, Connecticut, and thence to Fairfield where Deborah's father, Nathaniel Baldwin, brought his four children and married Joanna, the widow of Richard Westcott, whose own four children married and removed to Stamford, Connecticut and Bedford, N. Y. and to New Jersey.

John Read's own uncle, Samuel Baldwin, was (to quote a member of his own family), "a man of powerful but uncultivated mind", who appreciating his own lack of opportunities moved to New Haven where his children could have advantages of the "highest kind", and he was rewarded by numbering among his descendants several notable men -- a Member of Congress, a U. S. Senator, a University President (Abraham Baldwin of Georgia), a Speaker of the First House in Ohio; (Ruth Baldwin, wife of our Joel Barlow, came from the Michael Baldwin line.) Some of this thirst for knowledge -- certainly a great respect for knowledge, must have been implanted in young John Read, as he was sent, when only 14, to far off Cambridge to be educated at Harvard. No doubt as a boy he had been tutored in Fairfield, probably by the minister, Rev. Samuel Wakeman. We can imagine that he swam in the Sound, and sailed with others between Milford and Stamford on family visits. He had probably been over in Long Island, where many Fairfield families were taking up land. If he spent vacations at home in Fairfield from far off Boston, he may have explored

The first of these is the fact that the
the second is the fact that the
the third is the fact that the

the fourth is the fact that the
the fifth is the fact that the

the sixth is the fact that the
the seventh is the fact that the
the eighth is the fact that the

the ninth is the fact that the
the tenth is the fact that the

the eleventh is the fact that the
the twelfth is the fact that the

the thirteenth is the fact that the
the fourteenth is the fact that the

the fifteenth is the fact that the
the sixteenth is the fact that the

the seventeenth is the fact that the
the eighteenth is the fact that the

the watercourses inland as far as Hartford, or gone on foot or by horse to Danbury, founded when he was but ten by Norwalk families and still new and exciting territory.

Who can say what were the horizons and the dreams of a youth in this magnificent unspoiled wilderness where every hill top, arduously gained, spread out visions of new and beautiful stretches of unclaimed land! This was John Read's real background -- love of the land, and the accompanying procedure of punctiliously recorded documents as the land was acquired, transferred or inherited. He was born to be a lawyer, not a minister, but for a time the family decisions and environment prevailed; so John Read in 1693 was sent to Harvard. There was then no Yale at hand, yet perhaps the inspiration for this important step came from men who did found Yale; for if William Read and John visited their kinfolks in Milford, they were probably vastly influenced by that fine old pastor, Rev. Samuel Andrews, who (a graduate himself of Harvard in 1675) had come to Milford to a charge which was to last fifty years and in 1701, he and others did form Yale College.

At this period, of course, all ministers had to come from Harvard College. In 1693 William and Mary College in Virginia received a charter brought over that year by Edmond Andros who was then coming to take over for James II the government in Virginia, lately recovered from a series of poor (and often absent) administrators.

At any rate, this motherless lad left the home of

his father in Fairfield and traveled (we wonder how) to the great metropolis in Boston and entered a new world and this is no figure of speech, for Massachusetts (that largest and most independent of New England Colonies) was just recovering from the blackest and most staggering pages of her history, and to understand the new world upon which John Read entered, we go back a few years.

We have heard from Mr. Dillon of the distinctly different concepts of government which evolved in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Connecticut, relatively less troubled by external events, had become more and more democratic in processes; but Massachusetts (growing greater through her world traffic and sea-ports) had still held, as far as she was able, to the original theocratic ideals wherein only church members could vote. It had become increasingly difficult, however, to hold English-bred men to this idea, while asking them to join in the common defense and pay taxes -- and in fact, 13 years earlier, liberal thinkers had seceded from the strict orthodox First Church in Boston and set up the Old South Church. Only the danger coming upon them from Charles II in 1686-9, forced a reconciliation between them.

For years Massachusetts had agreed to a few edicts from Charles II and had diplomatically postponed action on others until they could be ignored in time. But now England found excuse for many unsettled grievances. James II (following his Stuart brother in 1685) sent Edmond Andros over and he and a few quislings really carried out orders. They had gone through many County Towns in

England and gathered back their Charters and now, in 1687, they did the same in New England. Plymouth Colony had never had a charter, so it was at once annexed to Massachusetts Colony. The private charters of Maine and New Hampshire were annulled. They were taken from Massachusetts and made Crown Colonies to the King. Rhode Island and Connecticut had their charters annulled but they were not put into effect. New Haven Colony, -- that "theocratic offshoot" of Massachusetts, was dissolved and thrown into the "ungodly arms of Connecticut Colony" at Hartford. But Massachusetts was to be humbled into resigning her charter. Not a hand in the Assembly was raised to do so; so Edmond Andros formally revoked the charter and furthermore, dissolved the General Court (comparable to our losing our Supreme Court). From Delaware to Maine, the whole sweep of New England was made to feel a servitude never known before, or since, by Englishmen.

But Providence, which in 1685 had interposed in behalf of Massachusetts by carrying off Charles II with a stroke, now again saved the day in 1689 through word from England, that James II had been deposed by the long-suffering English who had endured enough from the Stuarts, and had brought over William and Mary from Orange to be their new Protestant rulers.

Edmond Andros who had spent three years in Boston (a faithful servant of James II as a soldier under orders) was promptly jailed and returned to England. The old charter was re-instated and ex-Governor Simon Bradstreet recalled to administer the government.

This capable old gentleman was 86, born in 1603 in Lincolnshire, graduate of Cambridge in England, Secretary to the Earl of Warwick and a capable administrator during his life time. His wife was a daughter of ex-Governor Thomas Dudley, the Elder, both of these Governors being ancestors of our ex-President Herbert Hoover. With the crisis in government miraculously passed, Massachusetts had next experienced the dreadful witchcraft delusion which had engulfed Salem and nearby sections. But, by this year of our Lord 1692, the pious leaders (including Judge Sewall and Cotton Mather) had recovered their sanity and were tearfully acknowledging their remorse in public.

It was, then, the following year, 1693, that our Connecticut boy, John Read, entered College at Newtown, now Cambridge, where in 1696 he finished 7th in a class of 14. No doubt, the broad experience of these formative years had much to do with his later life and contributed to his return later from the life of a Connecticut Squire to the forum of the country's busiest city.

He saw here two churches existing in Boston -- one, the established Episcopal Church forced upon Boston by Andros, and he probably read many speeches against tyranny and heard notable sermons. There is no doubt but that John Read lived in the midst of great minds and great times and absorbed a greater breadth of vision in these three years. For us, the records of his college life are few.

It seems that while he was in College, a certain Peter Burr was entrusted by the elder Read to deal out John's spending money, and his Mss. Account Book (now in the Massachusetts Histori-

cal Society) enters charges for the usual necessities of a student, viz: "a pair of gloves, two pen knives, six pewter spoons, three "ink orns", four handkerchiefs and $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. liquorish balls"; also a dozen pipes and beer and cider to the value of 9 shillings. The College Quarterly said he was a lively student. He once paid a fine of 7 sh. 9 pence; and one Quarter bill for commons and sizing was no less than £ 5 - 2 - 11 d. Years later, Read gave Thomas Prince a somewhat different impression of his undergraduate diversions, saying: "When I was a senior sophister at College in 1696, there being a day of prayer, I and several others went from College to attend the exercise, and after a day of solid preaching and praying in relays, Mr. Torrey stood up and prayed nearly two hours, but all his prayer so entirely new and various, without tautologies, so exceedingly pertinent, so regular, so natural, so free, lively and affecting that towards the end of his prayer, hinting at still new and agreeable scenes of thought, we could not help wishing him to enlarge upon them. But time obliged him to close to our regret; we could gladly have heard him an hour longer."

This detached evaluation shows the analytical quality of our subject's mind. He probably adopted a similar style, as he had a very engaging manner in the pulpit, in which he soon found himself. Returned from College, and following the loss of his father, John Read within the year was preaching at Waterbury, though not quite 20 years of age. To be sure, Waterbury was not the industrial city that we know. It had a ratable estate of only £ 1700 but the Town "voted a rate of 3 half pennies in the Pound" to defray his

salary, and twice renewed the offer of a permanent Pastorate -- each time declined, although the nominal position continued until December 29, 1699 when he resigned. On November 12th next, he joined the First Church of Hartford where he served three years, again declining to be regularly installed; also declining an invitation to serve in Windsor, Connecticut.

Now in 1703, it happened that the people of old Stratford had occasion to supply their pulpit and voted "that Nathaniel Sherman proceed forthwith with all convenient speed to Hartford and endeavor, by all lawful means, the obtaining of Rev. John Read to supply the vacancy in the ministry, made by the decease of the Rev. Isreal Chauncey, and that he be voted £40 in money and £ 6 in firewood for half a year and that the Committee take care of transporting Mr. Read's family and find suitable habitation for him." This referred to his wife Ruth Talcott, daughter of Col. John Talcott (later to be Governor of Connecticut), and by this time a daughter Ruth, and a son John Read Jr., had been born; (this is Col. John Read of Lonetown, born 1701, died 1786). In all there were at least eight children most of whom married in Boston and lived in the East and in Halifax and Rhode Island. At Stratford young Rev. John Read served the Congregational Church faithfully for three years; but in 1706 the Town and Church were rocked to their common foundation.

The faint specter of the English Established Church, which had already set up in Massachusetts in the King's chapel by Edmond Andros, now appeared on the Connecticut horizon. Newly arrived

Englishmen knew nothing of the New England Church. They retained a traditional affection for the home church, although "worshipping in faithful spirit with the dissenting communities amongst whom their lot was cast". Meanwhile, ministers about to be ordained were examining the doctrinal fundamentals. Knowing the judicial mind of our subject, we may understand his more tolerant idea of religious freedom - scarcely formulated; (this was 80 years before our Bill of Rights). He probably defended the right of both churches to exist; (both Maryland and Rhode Island had more tolerance).

Aware of considerable criticism going on behind his back, he hailed certain members of his congregation before a church council for "contempt of him and his ministry". The usual remedy of Town Meeting and a day of fasting and prayer resulted in the appointment of the Reverends Pierpont, Andrews, Chauncey and Webb to look into the charge of the young minister. These exonerated the Town and Church saying: "they had found no indication of anything offensive to Mr. Read except the intimation that he had made overtures to join the Episcopal Church".

At this moment came the Rev. George Muirson from England, a missionary, accompanied by Col. Heathcote, who rode fully armed into the midst of a gathering of the Church, nearly overturning the faithful Elders who could not possibly at that date visualize the existence of two doctrinally opposed faiths in the same community at one time. Mr. Read now openly expressed his preference for the Episcopal form of worship and withdrew as his parishioners viewed it "into the papistical ways of Muirson's people". Many expected him

to become an English Churchman. Col. Heathcote wrote back to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that "Mr. Read of this place is inclinable to come over to our church and being by far the most ingenious man amongst them, would be very capable to serve the church".

Contrary, however, to the general impression, young Mr. Read gave up his clerical career entirely, not, however, before preaching the First Congregational Church sermon delivered at New Milford whither he had been drawn (says Orcutt) by ownership of land and had built a house. Whether young John Read had been studying law during his years of ministry or not, it seemed amazing that he should have qualified so soon, as early as May in 1709, at the New London, Connecticut Bar. He shortly became Prosecuting Attorney for New Milford in an action against a Stratford Company for trespass -- trespass on a large tract of land at Wiantenock, which he stated "belonged to ye Inhabitants of Milford and included certain land of his own". He had been defending his own land for some time evidently.

The same gifts of expression which had made him sought after as a minister now served him in the court room. The jury found for the plaintiff. The case being carried to the Governor and his Assistants, Read was awarded treble damages and costs. This dispute carried on for some time. Fifteen times it was brought up and each time Attorney Read, "Queen's Counselor", won the case. The sixteenth trial lost the land to the claimants! This reversal was

CORRECTION TO H. B. AULT'S "JOHN READ, GENT.", 1697

The parentage of the immigrant Baldwin brothers, Nathaniel, Timothy and Joseph, as given in the chart included in the subject pamphlet is incorrect.

APUKE

The first five children of the eight children listed were those of Richard and Ellen (Apuke) Baldwin as indicated. However, the last three were great grandchildren of Richard's brother, John Baldwin of La Hale (Hayle).

C. C. Baldwin's "Baldwin Genealogy" shows Richard Baldwin of Cholesbury (husband of Isabel and father of Nathaniel, Timothy and Joseph) to be the son of Richard(II) and grandson of Richard (I) and Ellen Baldwin.

After modern research in England, Herbert Furman Seversmith's contemporary work corrects the lineage to read as follows:

- A. Robert Baldwin born ca 1475 died post 1528 of Dundridge and Aston Clinton, Co. Bucks. His wife was Agnes, daughter of William Delte of Rickmansworth, Co. Herts. In addition to John next, he was the father of Richard of Dundridge who married Ellen.
- B. John Baldwin of La Hale (Hayle). Died 1565. Wife unknown.
- C. Thomas Baldwin of Pypers, Chesham, Bucks, died in 1570 leaving wife Joane and several minor children. Joane was perhaps Joan Tyndall, as Thomas refers to his brother John Tyndall.
- D. Richard Baldwin born Pypers, Chesham, Bucks circa 1575, died 1615. Resided Cholesbury, Bucks. He married Agnesdesham (Amerisham) 31 May 1593 Isabella Harding.
- E. Nathaniel Baldwin, Timothy Baldwin and Joseph Baldwin, immigrants to Milford, Connecticut. Nathaniel's daughter, Deborah, married William Read, and was the mother of John Read.

February, 1953



Richard Baldwin of Cholesbury, Bucks. Co., England
Both left wills naming children - The records of the last three cease in England and appear early in Milford, Conn.

Both left wills naming children - The records of the last since came in.

- (1) Henry Baldwin
executor of father
b. 1602 (will)
d. = his son Richard, executor
of father 1602 England
(2) Alice (not married)
(3) Agnes = William Grange
(4) Cicely (not married)
- (5) Lettice
b. = Foster
d. by 1st wife
- | |
|----------------------------|
| John Baldwin bp. June 1644 |
| Daniel " " " |
| Nathaniel " " Jan. 1645 |
| Abigail " " 1648-d. 1668 |
- (6) Timothy
b. =
d. =
- and =
- Joanna had 4 Westcott children -
She = (3) - Thos. Skidmore - (co.-adm. of
her 2nd husband's estate)
no issue
- 4 Westcott children
- (1) Joanna = John Weed of Stamford Conn.
(2) Daniel Westcott d. 1704-(will) in Salem Co.
(3) Abigail = Moses Knapp
(4) John Westcott = Ruth Hyatt (of Thos.) and t
Stamford and Bedford, New York -
His sons - Richard - Jno - Thos. -
in Bedford, N. Y. - records
- (7) Nathaniel Baldwin
b. =
d. =
- (8) Joseph Baldwin
- (9) Deborah m. Wm Read
b. =
d. =
- (10) John Read of Lunetown
- (11) Abigail (Hon.) John Read of Lunetown
- (12) Sarah

= Zach. Ferris
of New Milford

b. Mar. 1
1677/8

b. 1679 Fairfield



References and Authorities Quoted

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2. Peter Burr - Mss. Account Book - Mass. Hist. Soc. p. 19-39
3. Hugh Adams - See in Harvard Archives
4. Henry Bronson - History of Waterbury - 1858
5. Memorial Edition of Hartford County - by Trumbull
6. History of Stratford and Bridgeport - by Orcutt p. 296-7 Vol. 1
7. Biographical Sketches of Eminent Lawyers - by Knapp - p.157-161
8. History of Harvard University - by Josiah Quincy
9. Annals of King's Chapel - by Henry W. Foote
10. Winthrop Papers - in Mass. Hist. Society - vol. 5 - 406-418-426
11. John Adams - Works - III-533 and IX-572
12. Life of James Otis - by Wm. Tudor (Boston 1823) p. 12
13. Jacob W. Reed - "The Reed Family" (Boston 1861) - p. 209
14. Boston Weekly Post Boy - Feb. 13, 1749 - p. 2/1
15. Fiske's New England Colonies
16. Land Records of Newtown, Conn. - vol. 1
17. History of Redding, Conn., by Todd
18. W. A. Beers - "John Reed, the Colonial Lawyer" - Fairfield County Historical Society
19. Archives of Harvard College - Mr. C. K. Skipton Custodian
20. Addison Gallery of Art - Phillips Andover Academy, Andover, Massachusetts



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W O R K S

Various legal papers of Read are preserved in the court files of Connecticut and Massachusetts. The M. H. S. has a number of miscellaneous papers and letters, some of which are in the Winthrop, Mss. and not listed in the general catalogue. Some of his writings have been printed in the following places: 6 Coll. M. H. S. v (Winthrop Papers); Law Papers, III (Coll. Conn. Hist. Soc. xv); Talcott Papers II (Coll. Conn. Hist. Soc. v); Edmund F. Slafter, John Checkley (Prince Society, 1897), II, 38-44; Jeremy Belknap, History of New Hampshire (Boston, 1792), III, 359-65; George B. Reed, John Read (ed. 1903).

His only printed work is A LATIN GRAMMARBoston, 1736.

pp. (2), 34, 20. AAS, BA, CHS.



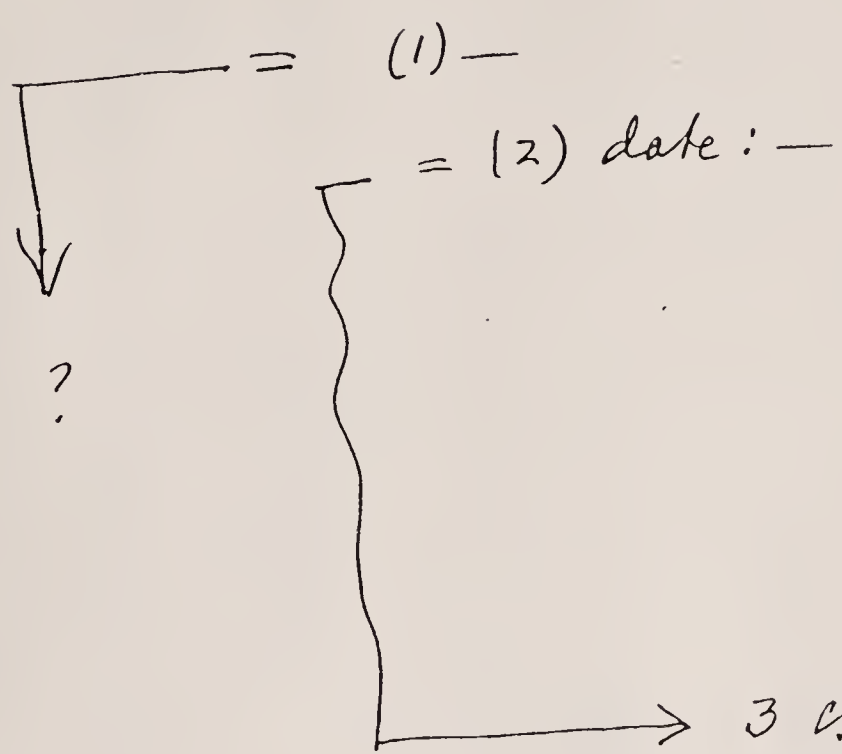
maybe Wm Jr b 1655

or -

Wm Read of Milford + Fairfield Ct. (maybe son of Thos-
who d. 1667 ±

b
d -

his inventory
Essex Institute
vol 11 -



Deborah Baldwin

b
d -

(daugh. of -> Nathaniel Balda
+ (2nd) wife: Joanna -
(widow of Richard Westcott
of Fairfield Ct.)

4 West
children

Sara

Abigail -

Hon John Read -

b 29 Jan. 1679-80
old cal.

where was his home - (?) < - - - - -> d -

- - - - -> where (?)

her sister
Hannah
= Nathan
Gold -
(Gould)

wife Ruth Talcott

lived in Boston after
his death with her

son - Wm Read + c.
(1710-1780)

H.C. - class of 1697 -

He studied for the ministry -
(under whom - ?)

but was inclined toward the la

and admitted to the Bar - 1708 -
(Hanover + Queens Sts) (maybe Ct. or Mass (?) - was made
Queen's Attorney - 1712 - lived in Boston

wrote a Latin grammar 1734 - Established
Civil + legal codes in Mass. - (N. Eng Hist
Magazine
April 1877
p. 207
Atty General - (?) of Mass - (?)



Col. John Read of Southtown Manor Redding Ct - son of Hon John Read 1680-1748
and wife Ruth - Talcott -
1701-1786 - Hartford Conn. (bro of Ruth - (wife of Rev. Nath. Hunt -)
d 1766

= (1) date: Mary Hawley - of Capt John Hawley and wife Deborah (Pierard?)
1698 - 1748
and = 2 - in 1750 - - Sarah Bradley (1726-1774) of Greenfield Mass
(daughter of: -)

(4)

Wm Read
d 1730
Feb 11-1808
ae 78
= Dec 11-1753
Sara Hawley
of Redding
Conn.
(daughter of: -)

Deborah
b d
= 1775
Thos.
Benedict

Mary
= John
Harbin

(5) Capt Zalmox
Read
b 1739
d - Jan 15-1786
ae 61
Capt 10 16-60
Res't
= Huldah
Bradley
d 1821

(3) Ruth
= Jer.
Mead

Ensign Zalmox Read
b 1759 d Oct 3-1846 ae 87
= (1) Huldah Gray in 1780
who d June 27-1810 ae 49
= (2) in 1811 = Hannah Bassett
1756-1870
?

Wm Read Jr
b d
= Charles
b 1785

Aaron 1781
Clarissa
Henry
Betsey

Samuel
Caroline

6

Hester 1752-1784 = (6) Mar 14-1775 - Anne Gorham
d. Feb 3-1785 ae 31

(7)

John Read III
= June 15-1783
Jon Willard
b 1783

= 2 Feb 22-1789
Abig. Will - (1762-1840)
d Sep 21 ae 78

* Anne
= Sara
= Wiley
= Vegetia
b 1783

(5) Deborah b 1740
(6) Thaddeus 1792-
= 1824
Eleanor Lyden
ae 47
(7) Eli who d 1878
b. June 6-
1795

Charles 1784 - June 11-1786
Marion 1788 Betsey 1790
Wilekes 1792 Abigail 1795
Mabel 1797 - Collins 1799

(8) Sara Read = (11) Maj. Jakey Hall (1744-1799) g. v.
(9) Mabel " = Levi Starr -
(10) Esther " = 1778 = Daniel Collins Bartlett
b 1757 of Rev Nath. " &
(removed to America 179)
dau Abigail b 1778



Miscellaneous Deeds —

(John
Read —)

from Court House Records —
by H.B.A.



Reed - Book A Fairfield Conn - p 252 - A 188

Gift of land from Wm Read to son: John Read - 1693

For good causes and considerations moving me y^e to
I grant to my daughters Sara and Abigail the lot
called Hedges Lot situate in Fairfield - in quantity
about 5 acres bounded on y^e northwest by the land
of Cornelius Hull on y^e South East by y^e Highway
and y^e north east by land of Joseph Rowland,
I also give them the Meadows at Saccoe Creek
and all other lands meadows house barn orchar
and fences unto my loving son, John Read.

Nathan Gold - Assistant

William Read

(Sept 29-1693 -



Hartford Conn

One deed to part of Souclow's Manor —
consisted of a former Colony grant in 1687 — Oct 13 in the
writing of Secy Hezekiah Willis — to Mr Cyprian Nichols

1687:—

At a General Court held at Hartford

" to Mr Cyprian Nichols 200 acres where he can find it
the land not to prejudice any former grants etc
Calib Stanley

1711 — March 1 —

Then laid out ye grant of 200 acres, granted by
ye General Court to Capt. Cyprian Nichols Oct 13-1687
follows:—

Beginning at a great Chestnut tree, marked
on ye South and West sides and J. R. set upon it
— (at the Sound End of Woolf Ridge)

Thomas Hoyt

Daniel Taylor

Surveyors of ye Town of Danbury

Entered July 14

Secy Hez. Wyllis, — Secy

Mar. 21-1711 —

The next two deeds were May 7-1700 — to Mr Daniel Hillon
and Oct 10-1706 — to Mr Richard Hubbard —

Side by side with the preceding 200 acres

and 100 acres May 7-1700 — all in one piece etc

Grants were purchased by Mr John Read, before they
were laid out —



1677 June 20 -

Thomas Skidmore Sen^r to Daniel Westcott - (Step son?)
 - at the expiration of the natural life of Thos. Skidmore, one
 house lot with dwelling house, barn orchard yards
 fences trees and all the parts and appurtenances of
 them - situated in Fairfield 2 1/2 acres more or less
 by estimation. - bounded as follows: -
 on the north east by land of Esbon Wakeman
 N. W. " Joshua Knowles
 S. W. " Henry Rowland
 S. E. by the Highway -

1679

Daniel Westcott to Richard Hubbell - 11-June-1679 Vol A-3.
 Bill of Sale --

- practically same as above - same boundaries -
 identifying the same land -
 " not to enter upon - until the expiration of the natural life
 of Thos. Skidmore, excepting that part which Thomas
 Skidmore formerly gave William Read and is now
 the property of Richard Hubble - The deed also in-
 cluded a share in the Common - which rights per-
 tained to same lots.

Sale - 16 Mar 1686 - Recorded 16 June 1687 - vol A - p 291

Sargeant Richard Hubble of Fairfield - to William Read

Bounded as follows: - on the N.E. by land of the heirs of Esb^r
 Wakeman, deid
 on the N.W. by land of Joshua Knowles
 S. W. " Henry Rowland
 S. E. by the Highway

Land owned by Richard Westcott who married Joan — who
in Block 4 Parcel F.

mar (2) Nathaniel
Baldwin
and (3)
Thos Skidmore.

Affidavit by Nathaniel Baldwin — (A 56)

dated 13 Jan 1653 — states that he
acquired these several parcels by marriage with Joanna his
own house and home lot — being in quantity $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres
more or less and bounded as follows: —

on the n.e. by land of John Nichols

" " N.W. " " Simon Hoit.

" " S.W. " " Henry Rowland

" " S.E. " " by the Highway

a deed of gift dated 20 April 1675 — Vol A 214

Thomas Skidmore to William Read

William Read hath by gift from Thomas Skidmore, (note:
wife's step father) a small piece of land on his home lot
facing upon the street being in quantity 2 rods in
breadth and 6 rods in length, and is bounded as follows

on the n.e. by land of Esbon Drakeman —

on the s.e. " the Highway

on the other two sides by Thomas Skidmore's land.

— an abatement noted in the above also — omitted here.

Deed of Sale — recorded 1680 — vol A p 258

Wm Read to Richard Hubble — Wm Read sells his interest in
small parcel on the home lot that sometime was Thos. Skidmore
being 12 rods, — 2 in breadth and 6 rods in length — same
boundaries — to be possessed as (stipulated) — in a sale Dec 11-16



Sept 19 - 1723 -

Deeds - Fairfield Co - vol 4 - 532 - 3

John Read - of Lontown - to his son John Read - of Lontown -
Know all men by these presents, - that I, John Read of Lontown
Gent. - in consideration of my natural love and affection to my
oldest son John Read and for his - - -
Do give and grant to him one half of my manner of Lontown
being the whole of the lands that I have enclosed and two
hundred acres near ye South West Corner of outside fences
Two hundred acres once intended to be land - East North and W
of my outside fence and new messuage part of my half.
the whole of my manour of Providence lying in Newtown are
in the tenour of William Perce containing about two
hundred acres already laid out and so many acres
of my Newtown division of land not yet laid out as
conveniently be laid in good form to the two hundred acre
aforesaid with appurtenances - giving him power (or
either of ye said mentioned two parcels of land of
two hundred acres (south?) (each?) - to remove from my pla
above mentioned, - exchange and take up in any other
place or places, as occasion or discretion may require
to have and to hold ye above given and granted
premises with appurtenances to him my son John
his heirs and assigns forever -- two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) there of
to him John and the other $\frac{1}{3}$ part to the use of my
loving wife, Mrs. Ruth Read, during her natural life and
after her death - to go to John - laid out at Lontown
above mentioned as so much sold at Vendue sale in
Fairfield for which I paid Major (sic) Burr 6 lbo
besides considerable to Lieutenant Hubble and Maj.
Burr - Then (they?) made a memorandum of my pitching

for it as above - but since the most part of the
said land is not quite rightfully taken up and
said 200 acres at the south west corner of my
outside fence - in part impinging, I am informed
on Capt. Wakeman's land - so much therefore must
be taken up also. Where now I am witness
of the aforesaid written I have herewith set
my hand and seal this 19th day of September, 1723.

John Read -

19 Sept 1723

Also

20 Sept 1723 - Power of Attorney granted - from same to Sa.
(vol 4 - pages 532-533 -

Fairfield County - Land Records -)

in the presence of Joseph Talcott and Eunice Talcott
acknowledged at Hartford Sept 20-1723-
recorded Fairfield Conn.



(John Read - of Suffolk Co Mass -)

1728-

D This Indenture of portion (partition?) - made the Eleventh
of November, 1728 between John Read of Boston, gent.^{al}
John Read of Loxtown Yeoman, -

Whereas the parties hold ye Manner of Loxtown (sic)
in -- to them and their heirs - and are minded to
divide off the northermost parcel of it containing
about six hundred acres is one entire piece of
ground with buildings and fences thereon -
therefore they for themselves and their respective heirs
mutually grant and agree that there shall be a line
drawn thro tract of land beginning at a grate
rock at the South west corner of my little meadow
etc -

D dated Nov 11-1728 Boston Suffolk Co Mass.

Recorded Nov. 2-1731

witnesses: W^m Read
Ruth Read

Signed
John Read -



Suffolk County Mass. Deeds -

Wm T A Fitzgerald - Reg -
Pemberton Square Boston

Grantor: -

John Read - to 11 - grantees - Books - 36-46-57-8-68-71

Grantee from 10 - grantors - Books - 36-42-3-6-8-57



(John Read, 1697)

H4 G 300

Wm Read - (called son of Wm - who d. 1659 Norwalk - earlier in Sta
(not established by me) - a Thos Read of record Milford Ct 1646.

L
d - (will) 1697 -
Fairfield Ct
(name Read - seems to appropriate some)
have not isolated line to my satisfaction -
(see Savage)

= (1) - Deborah Baldwin b 1652 - dau. of Nath. Baldwin + 2nd wife: -
Joanna - widow of Richard
Westcott sometime of Wethersfield + d. 1704

see
Baldwin
Geneal.

d -
- Gr dau. of Richard + Ellen who left
wills in Bucks Co Eng -)
= (2) Mary Brinsmade (Bostwick)
(widow of Jno ")
+ dau of Jno Brinsmade)
she d 1704

Joanna = (3) Thos Skidmore - who
sold land to Wm Read in 1673
prob. Deborah's share of f
Joanna had 4 Westcott children +
Nathaniel - = (1) Abig Camp - d. 16
in Milford -
+ had 4 Baldwin children -
half + step brothers + sisters of
Deborah Read.

3 ch :

Sara

Abigail

John Read (of Lonsborough 1714-22)

b Jan 29 - 1679-80

d - Feby 1749 - ae 70 in Boston

= ca 1699 ± Ruth Talcott - 1678-
of Lt Col Jno + 2nd wf Mary Cook
step sister of Gov. Joseph - Talco
(son of Lt. Col Jno + 1st wf.
Helena Wakeman)

+ buried in Read lot
Redding
Center

Ruth -

Col John Read

Rachel

Hezekiah

Judge Wm

Mary Abig.

b. 1700 -
Hartford Ct

b 1701 - Hartford

b 1703

b

1710 -

b 1716

d. Aug 8 - 1766 - ae 60
bur. Redding Cem.

d - 30 Oct. 1786 - ae 85
= (1) Mary Hawley

d -
(family data)

1780
of Boston

(as you
has
thes

= Sep 14 - 1737 - by Rev Wm Hobart
Rev. Nath. Hanna
(Yale 1733)

1698 - 1748 - of Capt Jno +
Deborah
Bradley

*
he may have died in Boston
1733 - (

1st pastor in
Redding
Congr. Church -

(1726 - 1774) of Fairfield
issue: Hezekiah etc.)
issue: - Wm b 1730 - d 1808
(see next) etc.

(?) why not one
named Wm
for gr of Read



Col. John Read - (1701-1786)

of 4th Regt. Conn. militia but too old to serve in the R

(see Todd's History of Redding Ct

= (1) Mary Hawley (1698-1748) (+ Truman's Soldiers of Revolution (Re

— had by 1st wife — 2 sons — (3 daus : — not sure of these

(1) Wm Read — b 1730

d — Feb 11-1808 — ae 78 (g.s.)

= Dec 11-1753 —

Sara Hawley (of Redding)
V.R.

→ Wm Jr — (not followed up)
(who had a
son Chas. b 1785)
etc.

2nd (2)

Capt. Zalmon
Read

b 1739

d — Jan 15-1786 ae 61 — (g.s.)

Capt 10th Co — (Capt Clift's Co.) Regiment

= Huldah Bradley
d 1821

Deborah = 1775 Thos Be

Ruth = Jer. Mead

Mary = Jno Harp

(son) Ensign Zalmon Read

b 1759 — d Oct 3-1846 ae 87 (g.s.)

= 1780 = (1) — Huldah Gray — who d. June 27-1810 ae 49 — (g.s.)

= (2) in 1811 — Hannah Bassett 1786-1870
(of Benj. of Berby Ct)

(6 ch.
by 1st wife)

1 — Aaron Read b 1781 —

2 — Clarissa " 1795

3 — Henry

4 — Betsey

5 — Samuel

6 — Caroline

(and see
over for 2nd mge
of Col Jno)

Col John Read = (2) w 1750 - Sara Bradley - (da. of: →
 (1726-1774 -) d May 18-1774 ae 47
 no dates for daus - ch. of 1st or 2nd wife?

3rd son:

Hezekiah Read - (named for?)
 1752-1784 ae 32-1824
 = (1) Mar 14-1775
 Anne Gorham
 d Feb 3-1785 ae 31.

= (2) - Feb 22-1789 - Abigail Hull
 1762-1840
 (d Sep 21- " ae 78)
 g.s.

3 by 2nd wfe.
 4 ch. by 1st wfe.

1 - Anne b Dec 1-1775

2 - Sara b 1777 = 1798
 Sings Sanford

3 - Willy - b 1780 - = 1805

4 - Hezekiah Jr = b 1783
 Jeddiah Rogers

17) - Elzy
 b June 6-1795

John Read III

b d

= June 15-1783
 Joa Willard

→ Charles b 1784
 John Read IV b 1786
 3 Morris 1788
 4 Betty 1790
 5 Wilkes 1792
 6 Abigail 1795
 7 Mabel 1797
 8 Collins - 1799

(6 - Thaddus

1792 - d 1840 ae 47

= 1824 Eleanor Lyon d - Aug 10-1878 ae 76-0-9

Sara
 b d

= (1) Major Jabez Hill
 1744-1799 -
 → desc. here
 numerous -
 (I have these)
 two Sara
 = (2) -

Mabel
 = Levi Starr

Escher
 = 1778 ±

Daniel
 Collins
 Bartlett
 b 1757
 of Rev. Nathl's
 (+ to
 America ny)
 → Abigail
 b 1778

Arranged from Vital Records
 & Cemetery Records in
 Redding Ct. by H.S.A.



Read, John

1697

1911

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY CLIPPING SHEET

WARE CELEBRATION OPENS.

READ MEMORIAL UNVEILED.

EXERCISES AT THE OLD CENTER.

ADDRESS BY REV ARTHUR CHASE.

Rev. R. D. Sawyer, H. C. Davis and
A. L. Harwood Also Speak—The
Excellent Loan Exhibit.

The old common before the historic church at Ware Center, which down through the years has seen the coming and going of generations, which has seen so many neighborly gatherings after meeting, has seen the happy throngs come from all the country-side to make merry at a wedding and the same ones gather to mourn a neighbor and relative, which has felt the martial tread of soldiers being trained for the wars, yesterday looked upon a sight the like of which it had never yet seen. Here on this common gathered the people of the present-day Ware. They came from the farm and from the loom, from the counting-room and the store, from far and near to do honor to the man who once owned the land all about and who in his lifetime parted with only this one parcel which went to make a site for the church and the common. The men of to-day in whose minds was born the idea of celebrating Ware's 150th anniversary had decided that a recognition though tardy, should be made of the life of John Read and his benefactions to the Ware River parish of which he was the patron and proprietor.

Rev. R. D. Sawyer's Address.
The exercises began at 8 o'clock with selections by an orchestra. After singing by school children Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, pastor of the Ware Center church, gave the unveiling address, taking as his subject, "The cross-roads monument." His remarks were as follows:

Into the great pulsating life of our nation no better blood has ever flowed than that flowing from the cross-roads rural life. From Maine to California, from the great lakes to the gulf, you will find everywhere the sons and daughters of the cross-roads holding positions of usefulness, trust and honor. And into that great army of countryside men and women, Ware Center has sent its quota. This little parish has poured forth into the great world ont-

side; both useful privates for the rank and file and leaders for positions of eminence. In the world of business, names may be found adorning city blocks that once were crawled on the seats of sadder school. The professional world has honorable men in its ranks that were recruited from the fields, who one time ran, barefooted, after the cows along these roads. Men who as boys and youths held the plow and dropped the corn in these fields have passed out into the larger world to argue the subtle questions of the law, case the pain-racked body, bring engineering tests or proclaim the word of God. In the days of the country emergency this parish sent men, both to the private market and to lash a leader's sword. And into the greatest and most important host of all, the industrial ranks, the hewers of wood and drawers of water, have men and women from this parish gone. And to-day many a native son of this place is the skilled manipulator of the great machine whose tireless muscles of iron and steel carries on the world's production. Arms reared and given strength on these hills have piled the pick in the mines beyond the Rockies; the broad, barren prairies of the West have been turned into fields of flowing grain under the magic touch of brain and skill that went out from here; the wild waves of the ocean have rocked the mariner, who as a child was rocked in a Ware Center cradle.

In the great movements for human betterment and reform, from the Revolution and Shays's rebellion down to the present rumble of unrest at social injustice, voices on behalf of humanity have gone up from this place. Not only those who have gone out from here, but those who have remained to bend their backs to the burdens of life, and toll give us evidence that the native of this parish may feel like the Apostle Paul, that he is a native of "no mean city."

To-day, standing on the threshold of the exercises that mark the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of Ware as a town, we are to uncover a permanent memorial to the man whose wisdom and heart more to make this parish possible than any other man of his own or of a later day. We are to unveil here at this cross-roads a monument, a memorial in stone and bronze, to testify for all time that the citizens of Ware to-day appreciate the work and honor the memory of John Read, the first benefactor of the town, the founder of the Manour of Peace.

The name of John Read must never cease to be honored in the Ware river valley, and so standing here on this historic spot, this church common, hallowed ground of the old-time Manour of Peace, I, as the chairman of the committee having these dedication exercises in charge, as a spokesman for the general committee and those citizens who conceived the plan of this monument; as pastor of the church that occupies the land given by John Read; and above all as a representative of all the citizens of the town, both present and past, in this multifold capacity, I do now commit to the future citizens of this town, to all who shall anywhere honor human worth, this bowler, dedicated to John Read and his

Manour of Peace.

The Memorial Unveiled.

Following the address of Mr Sawyer three little daughters of Ware Center, Misses Rachel Cummings, Rosalind Sawyer and Rose McManus, stepped forth and drew the cord that held the veiling in place. Mr Sawyer's remarks and the unveiling were followed by a selection by the orchestra, after which there were dedicatory addresses by Henry C. Davis of Ware and Albert L. Harwood of Boston. Both men felicitated the residents of Ware town on their achievements and told them always to foster there the spirit which had made to-day's events possible.

Rev. Arthur Chase's Historical Address.

These speakers were followed by Rev. Arthur Chase, rector of Trinity Episcopal church at Ware, whose historical address was in part as follows:—

It is certainly a matter of pride for any town to be associated with the name of an eminent man. In some instances such association is through the accident of birth, in others of residence. In ours it comes through a double tie—that of ownership and that of benefaction. John Read was the proprietor of this great realm, the Manour of Peace, and the benefactor of Ware River parish. John Read, as the fine bronze plate upon this boulder tells you, was born in the year 1680 on the 14th day of February of that year in the colony of Connecticut. He was the son of Samuel Read and a grandson of

John Read, who came from England with the great fleet in 1630 and settled in Massachusetts. At the age of 17 he graduated from Harvard college and, following the traditions of that institution of learning, prepared himself for the sacred ministry for which work he was ready when but 18 years of age. The field of his ministry was in the colony of Connecticut, where he served for eight years, holding charges at Waterbury, East Hartford and Stratford. Youthful though he was, he made himself a name in his calling. In the old parish records of Stratford, which I have examined, it is stated that the committee, sent to East Hartford to extend him a call was instructed to employ every reasonable means to induce the young man to accept the Stratford charge. He was already at this time married to Ruth Talcott, sister of Gov. Joseph Talcott and daughter of Lieut. Col. John Talcott, who commanded the Connecticut forces in King Philip's war.

But it was impossible for John Read, with keen business ability, to subordinate his administrative talents to ministerial work. Besides being a clergyman he was inevitably a man of affairs. Having been drawn unwillingly into lawsuits concerning his title to certain lands, he became deeply interested in the study of law, and soon decided to devote himself to its science and practice. His abandonment of the ministry for that purpose need not be regarded by us as in the least reprehensible, for, according to the Congregational policy of that time, a man was a minister only while holding a charge by virtue of his ordination at the hands of those over whom he was placed. So when he ceased to be a minister of the Stratford congregation he became, after his dismissal, a layman again. The fact is that, having chosen the ministry at 17, he discovered, on reaching maturity, that

his fully rounded usefulness would find a wider field in another profession. Certain it is that he remained to the end of his life the finest example of a Christian gentleman.

Mr Read's superior abilities soon attracted attention and he rose rapidly in his profession. In 1712, when Queen Anne was upon the British throne, he was made queen's attorney for the colony of Connecticut, an office which he held for several years. During this time he lived upon an estate which he named Lone-town, and to which he added from time to time by the purchase of lands from his Indian neighbors. One such tract was known as "Chickens's farm," after the shiftless Indian named "Chickens," from whom he bought it. These Connecticut estates were all in the neighborhood of Stratford and from them was formed the present town of Redding, or Reading.

John Read's services to Connecticut were many and great, but in 1721 he decided to remove to the Massachusetts Bay colony, the former home of his father and grandfather. His son, John, Jr., and his daughter, Ruth, remained upon the Connecticut estates.

Upon his arrival in Boston, Mr Read at once received the recognition that his character and legal attainments merited. Clients flowed to his office, and within a short time he was appointed attorney-general of the province. In 1738 he was elected by the voters of Boston to represent them in the Great and General Court, becoming thus the first lawyer to sit in that august body. Mr Read's legal attainments received from his contemporaries and from the generations that followed full recognition. Both Massachusetts and Connecticut employed him upon the various boundary disputes of the period. He was regarded as an authority on finance, shaping much of the legislation of Massachusetts during those years of financial difficulty, laboring continually for the preservation of the credit of the colony. Nor is his fame altogether forgotten even in these days. When making inquiries concerning an old province law I was casually told that probably John Read was largely instrumental in its framing.

In 1716, while still a citizen of the Connecticut colony, John Read bought the tract of land in the midst of which we are now standing, over 11,000 acres in extent, which he proceeded to develop after the fashion of an English gentleman's country estate, and to which he gave the poetic name of "the Manour of Peace." The alarms of the Indian wars that had devastated Brookfield on the east and Hadley to the westward had ceased to sound in this portion of Massachusetts. Here was a haven for a portion at least of those multitudes whose spirit could no longer brook the troublous ways of the old world and who were coming to our shores from England, Scotland and Ireland, to seek the peaceful habitation that corrupt politics and religious differences denied them there. The Manour of Peace, a land of forest and meadow, of hills and vales, of springs and of water brooks.

Within 10 years of his purchase Mr Read had begun developing the tract. Unfortunately the records of those days are meager, very meager; but certainly it was not long before the land was dotted with tenants cultivating farms which they held under lease at most reasonable terms, grinding their corn and rye at the mills.



which sprang up beside the water courses. Twenty-five shillings a year gave a man 100 acres, together with many common privileges enjoyed by the tenants as a whole.

Politically the Manour was a part of Kingston, and for religious privileges the settlers looked to Palmer Center, as it is now called, where a church was early established. But as soon as sufficient families had settled upon the Manour and adjacent lands to the east, a petition, signed by 30 householders, was sent to the General Court, praying for the establishment of a new and independent parish. This was in 1742. John Read's name

"for the petitioners" headed the list of signatures, and added to its weight and dignity. He was the "friend at court," the patron and proprietor, to whom the people constantly looked for assistance and advice. The petition being granted in due time, the proprietor took measures to establish the church on a good foundation. After taking up his residence at Boston, Mr Read had associated himself with the church of England and became a vestryman of King's chapel, but he was none the less concerned for the welfare of this parish to be established under the Congregational polity. He gave a hundred acres to be used as a glebe, half a mile west of here, at the center of the Manour, and offered other encouragements toward the building of a church and the settling of a minister, promises which were fulfilled by his heirs after his death. He himself did not live to see the church building erected, for he died in February 14, 1748, old style, or 1749, as we reckon to-day, aged 60 years, and was buried in the crypt of King's chapel, Boston. It was two years later, in 1751, that our first minister was installed, an occasion graced by the presence of Mr Read's children, who took the long journey from Boston or Providence, or Stratford, Ct., to show their interest in the proceedings.

It was not the wish of our first inhabitants to place the church upon the lot which their patron had provided for the purpose. I am sure that all will agree that this site here in the pleasant valley by the brookside was far more eligible. Mr Read's heirs met the wishes of the people, and gave them this spot, a common, a site for the meeting-house, and a plot for a burial place. The first meeting-house was placed east and west, like the churches of the old country, following the same sentiment that prompted the burial of the dead with their feet toward the east, that on the resurrection morning they might arise facing the sun of righteousness. So also the congregation worshipped, looking with expectant eyes toward that part of the heavens, whence ancient types foreshadowed that the Judge should come. Neither John Read nor any member of his immediate family, so far as I have been able to learn, ever dwelt upon the Manour lands.

With the death of John Read there died also the hope of maintaining the Manour as a single estate. The first proprietor never sold an acre of the land, having parted with only the one tract of 100 acres which he devoted to religious uses. Six years passed, during which the heirs were developing a new policy, settling on a division of the territory among themselves in order that each share might be disposed of as should suit the several owners. Gradually the lessees bought the farms, new occupants appeared upon the scene, and in the lapse

of years the traditions of the Manour were forgotten. The very name of the proprietor has long been strange to the ears of the townspeople. We revive his name and his fame to-day and especially the name which he gave to the estate, "The Manour of Peace."

Following Mr Chases's address the exercises were closed with singing and an orchestral selection. The committee in charge of the dedication exercises were: Rev. Roland D. Sawyer, chairman, Frank W. Harwood, George M. Sanford, Patrick J. McManus, J. Warren Cummings, Mrs. A. G. Buffington, Miss Mary S. Rich and Miss M. R. Howard.

The boulder dedicated yesterday stands on the old common facing the cross-roads. It is a large rough stone and has on its face a beautiful bronze tablet which bears the inscription:—

To the honourable

John Read

1690-1749

Proprietor of the Manour of Peace

Benefactor of Ware River Parish

This memorial

is erected by the citizens of the town on the 150th anniversary of its incorporation as a district

1911.

Springfield (Mass)
Republican 9/3/11



7s 9d. He spent even more freely than his father's many acres would justify, one quarter-bill for commons and sizings being no less than 5/ 2s 11d. Peter Burr (A.B. 1690) was employed by the elder Read to deal out John's spending money, and in his account book John is charged with such articles as a pair of gloves, two penknives, six pewter spoons, three "inkorns," four handkerchiefs, and "14 lb Liquorish Balls." It is not clear whether John or his father consumed the three dozen pipes and beer and cider to the value of 9s.² With Collins and Southmayd he played a trick on their classmate, Hugh Adams, who with ready Celtic wit retorted in verse

Blest is the man who hath not lent
'To wicked Reed his ear.'

Years later Read gave Thomas Prince a somewhat different impression of his undergraduate diversions: "When I was senior sophister at college in, 1696, there being a day of prayer, kept by the association at Newtown . . . I and several others went from college to attend the exercise. . . ." After a day of solid preaching and praying in relays, "Mr. Torrey stood up and prayed nearly two hours; but all his prayer so entirely new and various, without tautologies, so exceedingly pertinent, so regular, so natural, so free, lively, and affecting, that towards the end of his prayer, hinting at still new and agreeable scenes of thought, we could not help wishing him to enlarge upon them. But time obliged him to close, to our regret; and we could gladly have heard him an hour longer."⁴ Read did not take his second degree in course, and is first credited with it in the Triennial of 1721. No copy of the *Questions* of that year survives, but it is probable that he was not required to perform for the degree.

From Cambridge, Read went to preach at the little Connecticut town of Waterbury, then only fourteen years old and having a rateable estate of but 1700/. "Febeurary: 8: 1698/9 the town having by a comity given Mr. John Reed a Call to the worck of the ministrey amongst us accept what they haue done in it and do now renew our call to him in order to the worck of the ministrey a mongst us."⁵ The town renewed the call on



JOHN READ

² Peter Burr, Ms. Account Book, Mass. Hist. Soc., pp. 19, 39.

³ See under Hugh Adams, above.

⁴ Joseph Anderson, *The Churches of Massachusetts* (New Haven, 1892), pp. 185-6.

⁵ Henry Bronson, *History of Waterbury* (Waterbury, 1858), p. 212.

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